

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROMANOV SAYS LENINGRAD SUCCEEDS IN IMPROVING
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. POLITBURO MEMBER AND LENINGRAD OBKOM
FIRST SECRETARY G. ROMANOV HAS PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE IN
PRAVDA WHICH ASSERTS THE PARTY'S ECONOMIC POLICY PROMOTING
INTENSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION AND ENHANCED QUALITY
OF OUTPUT IS WORKING IN LENINGRAD AND HE IMPLIES THIS
EXPERIENCE IS A MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE USSR. HE DID
NOT ADVANCE NEW DIRECTIONS IN ECONOMIC POLICY BUT RATHER
POSITED THAT EXISTING GUIDELINES ARE WORKABLE WITH

PROPER PARTY "GUIDANCE" OF THE ECONOMY. AT THE SAME
TIME, ROMANOV CAREFULLY PAID OBESIANCE TO THE PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE POLITBURO AND PERSONALLY TO
BREZHNEV. ON ONE LEVEL, THE ARTICLE IS A REASSERTION
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OF THE BASIC ROLE OF THE PARTY IN THE ECONOMY. ON
ANOTHER, IT COULD REPRESENT ROMANOV'S CLAIM TO AN
ENHANCED ROLE IN ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLE-
MENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. G. ROMANOV, POLITBURO MEMBER AND LENINGRAD OBKOM FIRST
SECRETARY, PUBLISHED A SIGNED ARTICLE IN PRAVDA MAY 20 ENTITLED,

"ON THE PATH OF INTENSIFICATION AND RAISING OF QUALITY." WE ASSUME THE DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT FROM FBIS AND COVER ONLY THE MAIN POINTS AND OFFER OUR ANALYSIS.

3. ROMANOV DID NOT SET OUT NEW POLICY APPROACHES, AND THE OBJECTIVES CITED WERE MAINLY THOSE ADOPTED BY THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. HIS POINT, RATHER, WAS THAT EXISTING GUIDELINES ARE ADEQUATE SO LONG AS THERE IS PROPER PARTY "GUIDANCE" OF THE ECONOMY, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE LENINGRAD OBLAST OVER THE PAST DECADE (WHILE HE HAS BEEN FIRST OR SECOND SECRETARY). AMONGST THE MAIN GOALS CITED WERE: ENHANCED SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS; CREATION OF PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS; IMPROVEMENT OF PLANNING; CONCENTRATION OF INVESTMENT RESOURCES; IMPROVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE; RECONSTRUCTION AND REEQUIPPING OF EXISTING PLANTS RATHER THAN NEW STARTS; DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COMPLEX EQUIPMENT AND INTEGRATED PRODUCTION CAPACITIES; AND INTENSIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

4. THE MAJORITY OF THE ARTICLE IS SPENT IN DEMONSTRATING THAT THESE DIRECTIONS ARE BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE LENINGRAD OBKOM. HE NOTES THAT THE 1976 PLAN TARGETS FOR LENINGRAD WERE "SIGNIFICANTLY OVERFULFILLED" AND THAT PROSPECTS ARE FOR EVEN GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS. THE KEY TO THE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE, ACCORDING TO ROMANOV, IS THAT THE OBLAST PARTY ORGANIZATION CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON THE SOLUTION OF THE KEY PROBLEMS OF RAISING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION BY MEANS OF ITS ALL-ROUND INTENSIFICATION. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVES MANY EXAMPLES OF "SUCCESS" STORIES SUCH AS THE CREATION OF 120 LARGE PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS WHICH HAVE CONCENTRATED PRODUCTION AND IMPROVED TIES WITH SCIENTIFIC BODIES; THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COMPLEX EQUIPMENT SUCH AS LARGER POWER GENERATION BLOCKS, ATOMIC REACTORS, AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT; IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS; INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERS AND ECONOMIC MODELLING; CONCENTRATION OF INVESTMENT RESOURCES; EXTENSIVE REEQUIPPING OF OLDER PLANTS; IMPROVED CADRE AND SPECIALIST TRAINING, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "HIGH AND STABLE" RATES OF GROWTH IN VOLUME OF OUTPUT AND LABOR PRODUCTIVITY.

5. ROMANOV WAS CAREFUL TO PAY OBEISANCE TO THE CENTRAL PARTY ORGANS WHICH HE TERMED THE "CONCENTRATED EXPRESSION" OF THE COLLECTIVE THOUGHT AND PRACTICAL ACTIVITY OF THE PARTY AND TO BREZHNEV; FOR HIS "HUGE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION" IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOVIET DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. HE NOTES THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

(1976-1980) FOR THE OBLAST WAS DEVELOPED AND IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN "CONFORMITY" WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF BREZHNEV AND A POLITBURO DECREE. AND IN A BOW TO A PET BREZHNEV PROJECT, ROMANOV NOTES THAT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IS NOW PROCEEDING ON THE BASIC DIRECTIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ELEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1981-1985) AND "UNTIL 1990".

6. IN A FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF ORTHODOXY, ROMANOV POINTS TO THE ONGOING SOCIALIST COMPETITION CAMPAIGN AS THE CULMINATION OF THE IMPROVED STYLE AND METHOD OF PARTY WORK IN THE OBLAST ECONOMY. AND HE ASSERTS THE PATH TO FUTURE PROGRESS LIES THROUGH "FURTHER STRENGTHENING" OF PARTY "GUIDANCE" OF THE ECONOMY, REMOVAL OF EXISTING SHORTCOMINGS, AND FULLER UTILIZATION OF EXISTING RESERVES.

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7. COMMENT. ROMANOV IS CLEARLY NOT A BOAT-ROCKER ON ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT THE INTENT OF HIS ARTICLE IS TO SHOW THAT LENINGRAD IS AT FOREFRONT OF INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS IN USSR. HIS PRESCRIPTION OF ENHANCED PARTY "GUIDANCE" OF THE ECONOMY WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THOSE WHO MIGHT ARGUE THAT GREATER MANAGERIAL INITIATIVE AND IMPROVED INCENTIVES ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION. INDEED, ROMANOV APPEARS TO BE ARGUING THAT THE PARTY'S ECONOMIC POLICY IS SOUND AND THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS PROPER EXECUTION. CLEARLY, ROMANOV IS ARGUING THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN LENINGRAD. HIS ARTICLE THUS CAN BE READ ON ONE LEVEL AS A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR THE PARTY'S CONTINUED DOMINANT ROLE IN DIRECTING THE ECONOMY. IT COULD ALSO BE READ, DESPITE THE BOWS TO THE CENTER AND TO BREZHNEV, AS A CLAIM FOR A GREATER PERSONAL ROLE IN ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION. IF IT WORKS IN LENINGRAD, WHY NOT ALLOW THE ROMANOV BRAND OF PARTY "GUIDANCE" A NATIONAL SCOPE?

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